IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Kenichi SUZUKI et al.		
Application No.:	10/535,264	Group Art Unit:	1771
Filed:	May 17, 2003	Examiner:	Jennifer A.CHRISS
Title:	EXTENSIBLE NONWOVEN FABRIC AND COMPOSITE NONWOVEN FABRIC COMPRISING SAME	Confirmation No.:	3874

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Kenichi Suzuki, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a Japanese citizen.

2. I graduated from Nagasaki University, Faculty of Mechanical System Engineering, with a Master Degree in March of 1997.

3. I have been employed with MITSUI CHEMICALS, INC. (hereinafter "MITSUI") since April of 1997, and have continued my employment with MITSUI until the present time. From April of 1997 to March of 2000, I was a researcher in the Polymer Laboratory, in Nagoya City, engaged in the areas of resin finishing (film, non-woven fabric). From April of 2004 to the present time, I have been working as a researcher at the Development Center, Department of Development of Composite Technology in Yokkaichi and Sodegaura, engaged in the area of resin finishing (non-woven fabric).

4. I am a co-inventor of the present invention. I have read and am familiar with the above-identified United States patent application filed May 17, 2005, the Office Action and the references cited therein.

5. The following experiments were conducted by me or under my direct supervision.

Experiments

Fiber elongation of the fibers obtained in the Example 1 of the present specification was measured in accordance with the manner disclosed in Takaoka et al., column 6, lines 36 to 63. As written in the Example 1 of the subject specification, the resultant conjugate fibers have the concentric sheathe-core configuration with a weight of the core portion to the sheath portion of 10 /90 and a fiber fineness of 3.5 denier.

As described in the Takaoka et al., the test length was 100 mm and the tensile speed was 100 mm/min. The distance between cramps at maximum loading was measured and the elongation of the fiber was calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{Elongation of the fiber (\%)} = L/L_0 \times 100$$

The result is shown below with the data disclosed in Takaoka et al.

Method of fiber preparation		Conjugate fiber			Elongation at maximum load %
		Weight ratio (Core/sheath)	Core	Sheath	
Present Experiment	Example 1 of the present application	10/90	Home pp	Homo pp	566
Data of Takaoka et al. from Table 1 (US 6,156,679)	Example 1	60/40	Homo pp	Propylene copolymer with ethylene and buten-1	285
	Example 2	60/40	Homo pp	Propylene copolymer with ethylene and buten-1	225
	Example 3	50/50	Homo pp	Propylene copolymer with ethylene and buten-1	210
	Example 4	60/40	Homo pp	Propylene copolymer with ethylene	205
	Example 5	70/30	Homo pp	Propylene copolymer with ethylene	220

From the above result, it is clear that the conjugate fiber used in the present invention has higher elongation at maximum load than that of the Takaoka et al.

The conjugate fiber that does not satisfy the requirement of the present invention showed inferior property in terms of elongation at maximum load.

6. I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi Suzuki

Kenichi SUZUKI

October 27th, 2008

Date